

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AGR-20 ISO-00 IOE-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25

NEA-10 RSC-01 OIC-04 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-10 SS-20 STR-08

CEA-02 L-03 H-03 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 TAR-02 ABF-01

SCI-06 AEC-11 AECE-00 HEW-08 SPM-01 DRC-01 /283 W

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P 241140Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2014

INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY

UNCLAS ROME 13012 SECTION 2 OF 2

FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, FAO

SUBJ: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE

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FROM USDEL TO FAO CONFERENCE

...SUPPORT AND IMPETUS TO IT.

8. THE CONFERENCE GAVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO POSSIBLE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PREPARATION AND ORGANIZATION OF THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE. IT RECOGNIZED THAT NO DECISIONS ON THIS MATTER COULD BE TAKEN BEFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAD REACHED ITS FINAL CONCLUSIONS ON THE PROPOSAL FOR THE CONVENING OF A WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE. NEVERTHELESS IT FELT STRONGLY THAT, AS THE ORGANIZATION IN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM WITH SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE, THE SPECIAL ROLE OF FAO SHOULD BE GIVEN FULL RECOGNITION WHEN SUCH ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE. IT ALSO STATED THE NEED FOR UNCTAD AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMMES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM TO COOPERATE IN THE UNDERTAKING. THE CONFERENCE /AUTHORIZED/ THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL TO ENTER INTO APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS FOR FAO PARTICIPATION IN THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE SHOULD THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECIDE TO CONVENE IT. SUBJECT TO THE TERMS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S DECISION ON THIS POINT, THE CONFERENCE /ENDORSED/ THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S SUGGESTIONS THAT THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT BE ESTABLISHED JOINTLY BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF FAO. MANY DELEGATIONS SUGGESTED THAT THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OR EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE CONFERENCE BE A NATIONAL OF A DEVELOPING COUNTRY WITH A CLOSE KNOWLEDGE OF DEVELOPMENT AND IN PARTICULAR OF FOOD PROBLEMS. IT WAS ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CONFERENCE BE FROM A DEVELOPING COUNTRY.

9. WITH REGARD TO TIMING, THE CONFERENCE RECOMMENDED NOVEMBER 1974 AS THE DATE OF THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE. CONSIDERING THAT THE NECESSARY FACILITIES WOULD BE AVAILABLE AT FAO HEADQUARTERS, AND THAT THE BULK OF THE PREPARATORY WORK WAS LIKELY TO BE DONE BY FAO, IN COOPERATION WITH UNCTAD AS WELL AS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMMES, THE CONFERENCE /RECOMMENDED/ THAT THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE BE HELD IN ROME. IT ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT THE SECRETARIAT OF THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE BE LOCATED IN ROME. IT OFFERED THE FACILITIES TO FAO HEADQUARTERS FOR MEETINGS OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE.

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10. A NUMBER OF SUGGESTIONS WERE ADVANCED REGARDING THE COMPOSITION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE. IT WAS GENERALLY FELT THAT THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE SHOULD BE MANAGEABLE IN SIZE, WHILE ALLOWING FOR THE EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION OF ALL REGIONS AND STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT. MANY DELEGATIONS WOULD LIKE TO SEE A FORMAL ASSOCIATION OF FAO IN THE SELECTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE. HOWEVER, THE TIMING DIFFICULTIES WERE RECOGNIZED, SINCE NEITHER THE CONFERENCE NOR THE COUNCIL WOULD BE IN SESSION WHEN THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE WAS LIKELY TO BE SET UP BY ECOSOC AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THE CONFERENCES URGED THE GOVERNMENTS OF COUNTRIES SELECTED FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE TO DESIGNATE AS THEIR REPRESENTATIVES OFFICIALS FAMILIAR WITH DEVELOPMENT ISSUES, AND ESPECIALLY WITH FOOD

PROBLEMS. THE CONFERENCE ALSO STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF
FAO IN COOPERATION WITH UNCTAD AND WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF
OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMMES, BEING DIRECTLY ASSOCIATED
WITH THE WORK OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE. IN THIS CONNECTION
THE CONFERENCE FELT THAT THE INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL
SHOULD ATTEND THE MEETINGS OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE AND
THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE IN AN APPROPRIATE CAPACITY. THE USE-
FULNESS OF THE FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCES CONSIDERING THE ISSUES
EXPECTED TO COME BEFORE THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE WAS URGED
BY A NUMBER OF SPEAKERS.

11. IN CONCLUDING ITS DEBATE, THE CONFERENCE CONSIDERED THAT
THE CONVENING OF A WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE WOULD BE A SIGNIFICANT
STEP ONLY IF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAD THE POLITICAL WILL
TO TAKE DECISIVE STEPS TO OVERCOME THE WORLD FOOD PROBLEM.
IT EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT ALL GOVERNMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED WOULD COLLABORATE SPEEDILY AND EFFICIENTLY
IN THE COMMON AIM OF HOLDING A WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE THAT
WOULD LEAD TO EFFECTIVE AND LASTING RESULTS.

/BUDGET ASPECT FO THE 1974 WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE/

12. THE CONFERENCE CONSIDERED THE POSSIBLE FINANCIAL
IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CONVENING OF A WORLD
FOOD CONFERENCE IN 1974 UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UNITED
NATIONS. IT RECOGNIZED THAT AT THE PRESENT TIME NO SPECIFIC
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BUDGET PROPOSAL COULD BE SUBMITTED, SINCE IT WAS NOT KNOWN
WHETHER THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY WOULD IN FACT DECIDE TO CONVENE
A WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE, NOR WHAT PROVISION WOULD BE MADE
FOR SUCH AN EVENT IN THE UNITED NATIONS BUDGET. THE CONFERENCE
THEREFORE /AUTHORIZED/ THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL TO DRAW ON THE
WORKING CAPITAL FUND UP TO A MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF \$500,000
TO COVER COSTS CONNECTED WITH THE PREPARATION FOR, OR
SERVICING OF, THE PROPOSED WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE IF IT WERE
HELD. THE CONFERENCE /REQUESTED/ THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL TO
REPORT TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND THE COUNCIL ON THE EXPEN-
DITURE OF THIS MONEY, AND INsofar AS TIMING PERMITTED TO
SUBMIT PROPOSALS TO THESE BODIES BEFORE EXPENTITURES WERE
ACTUALLY INCURRED. IN REACHING THIS DECISION THE CONFERENCE
NOTED THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN PREFERABLE, HAD CIRCUMSTANCES
PERMITTED, FOR THE NECESSARY EXPENDITURES TO HAVE BEEN INCLUDED
IN THE PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET FOR 1974-1975. IT RECOGNIZED,
HOWEVER, THAT THE CONTRIBUTION REQUIRED FROM THE ORGANIZATION
WOULD REMAIN UNCLEAR UNTIL THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAD REACHED
A CONCLUSION REGARDING THE PROPOSAL FOR A WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 11 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973ROME13012
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731166/abqcegyn.tel
Line Count: 161
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21-Aug-2001 by chappeld>; APPROVED <26-Dec-2001 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE
TAGS: EAGR, FAO
To: STATE INFO GENEVA
USUN N Y
EC BRUSSELS
PARIS
OECD PARIS
OTTAWA
CANBERRA

TOKYO
LONDON
BONN
COPENHAGEN
THE HAGUE
BRUSSELS
DUBLIN
LUXEMBOURG

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005